Historic Preservation Easements Listed Chronologically By Year of Formation

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements, made between a property owner and a qualified organization that protects a significant historic or cultural resource. By granting an easement, the property owner promises not to change the outside appearance of their building without the permission of the easement-holding organization. Conservation easements on properties are held in perpetuity in order to ensure the lasting protection of the building, even if ownership changes. Easements are recognized as charitable contributions and are therefore, tax deductible. It is always a good idea to consult with a tax lawyer and to research easement-holding organizations before donating an easement on a property.

Easement holding organizations in Washington, DC

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1786 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036. 202-588-6000 or www.nationaltrust.org

The National Trust is a national organization, but does hold easements in a variety of states. The National Trust has very specific restrictions and requirements on properties on which they hold easements. The legal department has great resources on the laws and regulations of conservation easements.

Foundation for Historic Georgetown, P.O. Box 3603, Georgetown Station, Washington, DC 20007. 202-628-5093 or www.preservegeorgetown.org

The Foundation for Historic Georgetown was founded in 1965 to protect buildings in the Georgetown Historic District. The organization currently holds around 100 easements.

The L'Enfant Trust, 2000 P Street NW, Suite #320, Washington, DC 20036 202-483-4880 or www.lenfant.org

The L'Enfant Trust was founded in 1978 to hold conservation easements in Washington, DC, and is regarded highly in the local preservation community. Currently, the organization holds over 700 easements. The organization's website has great information regarding easement descriptions, regulations, and frequently asked questions.

The American Easement Foundation

1426 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Unit 2C Washington, DC 20005

Capitol Historic Trust, 1906 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 202.328.5260 or www.capitoltrust.org

The Capitol Historic Trust was founded in 2004 to hold easements in the Washington, DC area. The organization's website has good general information on conservation easements.

(updated: 03/16/2016)